

12 December 1974

Director:

Recommend you call Senator Humphrey soonest to urge him to support, in conference, the Senate version of the provision in the Foreign Assistance Act (S. 3394) requiring Presidential finding and reporting for expenditure on covert action.

The main problem with the House version is that it specifies the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees as recipients of the reports.

On 2 December, Humphrey was very effective on the Senate floor in modifying the original Hughes amendment and made it clear that if there "is a word, for example, that would be considered in any way to result in jeopardizing what we might call the security interests of the Country", he would want to modify that word.

It is expected that the conference committee will move briskly on the bill and of course Humphrey will be a key member.

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Although the odds are long against us, in view of the House rules problem on access to committee reports, we plan on testing with those involved the adding of a provision to the language which would permit the issuing of rules taking precedent to protect the information by the senior members of the receiving committees. This would provide the type of responsible security protection of a joint committee without the tag along unfavorable features.

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